CHEER.

KOSTER & BIAL'S—7:26—Anna Held—Vaudeville.

LYCEIM THEATRE—8—The Princess and the Butterfly.

MANHATTAN THEATRE—8:20—My B398.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Day and evening—

Automa Exhauster. Autumn Exhibition.

PASTOR'S-12:30 to 11 p. m. -Vaudeville.

PLEASURE PALACE-1:30-7-Vaudeville.

PROCTORS-9 a. m. to 11 p. m. -Vaudeville.

WALLACK'S HEATRE-\$:15-A Lady of Quality.

WEBER & FIELDS'S MUSIC HALL-\$-Burlesque
Pourse Café.

14TH STREET THEATRE-S:15-An Irish Gentleman.

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# New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1897.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—In the Reichstag Herr Hammacher said that in the coming century European nations will be obliged to co-operate to preserve their existence in the struggle with America. — All is quiet in Port au Prince, and business has been resumed; the United States cruiser Marblehead and a French cruiser arrived in the harbor. — Señor Sagasta at a Cabinet meeting in Madrid said that in the event of intervention by the United States in Cuba the Government was prepared to defend the rights and honor of Spain. — The Cubans captured the port of Caimanera and secured \$30,000, which was lying on a wharf.

Kansas Pacific Kantout private persion bills were passed. —— House There was a hot debate on the Pension Appro-There was a priation bill.

DOMESTIC .- President McKinley's mother STIC.—President McKillon as before continued in about the same condition as before, but appeared to be growing weaker. —— Manipulation of the wheat market in Chicago sent the price of December wheat up 9 cents a bushel. —— A bill to reform the convict system of the State was passed by the Georgia House of Representatives. —— A thousand operatives of the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills in Atlanta, Ga., went on strike; riotous demonstrations were stopped by the police. —— A plan of reorganization of the United Society of Christian Endeavor is approved by the general officers. —— The correct site for a monument to mark the portage between the St. Joseph and Kankakee rivers used by La Salle, Charlevoix, Hennepin and Marquette in reaching the Mississippi has been determined on. en determined on

CITY AND SUBURBAN .- A number of citi-The XXIst District Republicans resolved not to participate in the machine primaries on December 14. — It was learned that the alarming reports regarding the condition of H. O. Havemeyer were unfounded; that, in fact, he was so much improved in health that he took a drive at his country place, near Stamford, Conn. — The annual dinner of the Union College Alumni was held. — Two elevated road collisions were caused by the fog; in a crash on the Second-ave, line three persons were hurt. — Stocks were strong, active and higher.

THE WEATHER.-Indications for to Fair, followed by threatening weather. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 52 degrees; lowest, 42 degrees; average, 4734 degrees.

## A PLATT EXCUSE.

Mr. Platt is hard put to it to excuse himself ave co-operated with independents, and his assertion is met with the record that as early as April 15 Mr. Lauterbach declared for a Tammany Mayor in preference to a non-partisan Mayor, and Mr. Platt followed this up on May 8 with speers at all reformers and notice that "the "Republican vote is not to be enlisted in any "more non-partisan enterprises." He has been driven to say that the vote up the State was entirely satisfactory, and the falsity of this assertion is proved by the fact that the up-State plurality for Judge Wallace was 101.631 smaller than that given to Governor Black, and 56,563 less than that given to General Palmer in 1895.

He is also driven to claim that his opposition to Mr. Low was based on a desire to preserve the Republican party, and to spread the notion that Mr. Low, as Mayor of Brooklyn, worked !!! to the party. In his post-election interview he said: "There is one calamity worse than the "success of the Democratic party in the city of "New-York, and that is its success in the State "and Nation. Mr. Low, as Mayor of Brooklyn, "had already defeated one candidate for Presi "dent. He did it by destroying the Republican "organization, no less than by his personal "treachery to the candidate."

In view of that statement-all of it mislead ing and part of it false-it is interesting to see what the election returns show of Mr. Low's influence on the fortunes of the party at large. In 1880 General Hancock carried Brooklyn for the Democrats by 8,267 plurality. In 1881 Mr. Low carried it for the Republicans by 4,354, and drew enough independent Democrats to the support of the rest of the ticket to cut down the Democratic plurality for Secretary of State to 565. The next year Mr. Low worked, voted and contributed money for Folger. Cleveland carried Brooklyn by about 37,000, but that was due to the tidal wave which swept the whole country, elected Ben Butler in Massachusetts and defeated Folger by 192,000. Mr. Low had no more to do with that than did Mr. Platt, who was just then in deep retirement. In 1883 Mr. Low was re-elected by 1,252 plurality, and instead of his candidacy breaking up the party it left the party strong enough to carry Brooklyn for General Carr at the same election by 1,890.

The next year Mr. Blaine lost Brooklyn by some 14,000. That was due to a great party revolt, which was not confined to Brooklyn or to New-York State. Mr. Low voted for Blaine, and when Mr. Platt was driven to charge him with "personal treachery" in that campaign he told what is simply and plainly a lie, which had been time and again refuted before he uttered it. Mr. Low, when running the year before, had pledged himself not to use the influence of the Mayor's office to help any candidates, and he simply kept his word like an honest man. In 1885 the Democrats carried Brooklyn for Hill by about 8,000, and elected Whitney Mayor. The latter calamity was due entirely to the machine Republicans, who might have secured a nonpartisan Mayor and gained many Democratic votes for Davenport, just as Platt this year might have elected Low and gained thousands of supporters for Wallace and his county tickets. Instead of continuing non-partisan city government, the machine men antagonized the inde pendents, refused to name a candidate to suit them, put up Mr. Schroeder, who refused to run and said he favored combination on General Woodward, and then substituted General Catlin-since a prominent McLaughlin Democrat-rather than follow Mr. Schroeder's advice. The result was that they threw the election to Whitney, who had less votes than the Repub- our contemporary has fallen was undeserved.

the rest of the ticket. These figures show that another of Mr. Platt's excuses for defeating the Republican party was utterly frivolous and founded on false statements. Mr. Platt must have been hard up for a defence when he was driven to misstate fifteen-year-old events. If the statements were true they would not make his leadership appear less bungling. As it is, they only make it appear more desperate.

RIVERS AND HARBORS.

The President's timely recommendation of economy in appropriations, in order that the Government's expenditures may be kept within its receipts, was well placed at the end of his Message to Congress, where it has the force of a final appeal to patriotic prudence. It is gratifying to learn that influential members of the House are in sympathy with the spirit of the President's advice, and in considering how the probable resources of the Government can be most wisely applied to meet its requirements have already given approval to the suggestion that an important saving can be effected in river and harbor improvements without risk of serious harm. The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, include under the head of public works an outlay of about \$49,000,000 on rivers and harbors. The magnitude of this sum is perhaps sufficiently striking without comparisons; but it is at least interesting to re call, as an example of the facility with which public expenditures grow, that the River and Harbor bill which President Arthur vetoed in 1882, thereby performing the most conspicuous end perhaps in general estimation the mos creditable act of his Administration, called for only \$18,743,875, or less than two-fifths of the huge total which is contemplated in the estimates for the next fiscal year

The proposal which is attracting favorable attention among leading Representatives i that nothing shall be appropriated for riverand harbors at this session beyond the amount required to meet existing contracts for improve ments already authorized and under way. It appears to us that this is a reasonable curtailment which it should be the aim of Congress to achieve. It is true that such a restriction might exclude some deserving objects, but, on the other hand, to open the door to exceptions, except in cases of absolute and obvious necessity would be pretty sure to aggravate the evil of log-rolling, and in the end spoil the plan of economy. A brief halt in the progress of river and harbor development could not do much harm, while it is probable that the balance of advantage would be large, without regard to the condition of the National Treasury.

But that is a consideration which cannot be ignored with safety or honor. Congress is bound to act in accordance not with its understanding of what various localities would like to have, but with its best judgment of what the country is able to pay for. Prompt execution of work already begun and exact fulfilment of contracts are likely to be profitable in the out come as well as creditable; but new projects of improvement ought to be examined with scrupulous care and with a firm purpose to postpone them in every possible instance to a more convenient season.

#### A TOUCHING TALE.

Our distressed contemporary "The New-York Sun" has seldom published a more pathetic narrative than that which appeared in its Thursday's issue over the signature of Franklin Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett is not only a stockholder in "The Sun," but one of its most favored contributors. For him it violates one of its most cherished traditions. The blue pencil of condensation is never applied to his literary or oratorical efforts. His speeches when a member of Congress were invariably printed with stenographic fulness in "The Sun." Moreover, it has always been understood that fondness for Mr. Bartlett and resentment of Grover Cleveto Republican voters up the State for turning land's refusal to appoint him on his military over the government of this city to Tammany. staff when Governor were at the bottom of our He has been driven to profess his willingness to contemporary's bitter and implacable hostility to that gentleman during the whole of his sub sequent career. It was doubtless partly because of its fondness for the writer and partly be cause it was a recital of its own woe's that this story, five columns long, was printed in full, with great amplitude of detail and what would seem to the casual reader many unnecessary repetitions of legal verblage. To persons in terested in the story it is an interesting story, though it must be admitted that to the average reader its interest chiefly lies in the fact that it is the reverse of a stery without words, being words without a story.

The story is in the form of two "complaints" drawn by Mr. Bartlett, who is also "solicitor for the complainant." One of these complaints recites that a considerable number of persons scattered all over the country from Massachu setts to California, and organized under the name of the Associated Press, have "combined "and conspired between and among themselves "and others" "to deprive the plaintiff of its right to sell its news to the public in the open "market." The painful details of this conspiracy are set forth to the extent of three col-The names of newspapers in various parts of the country which were willing to help "The Sun" along by buying what it calls "its news" at fixed and remunerative prices are given. But the narrative goes on to say that the conspirators, actuated by "spite and malignity." forced and compelled these newspapers not to buy "news" of "The Sun." By this highhanded proceeding Mr. Bartlett says "The Sun' has been damaged in its business and its prop erty "In the sum of many thousand dollars," and he accordingly asks the United States Cir. cuit Court for this district to interpose in its behalf and enjoin these conspirators from preventing the sale of "its news" to the newspa pers named. The second complaint is two col umns long, and is taken up with a harrowing recital of the same offences in slightly different form, but charging the conspirators with viola tion of the law of Congress against trusts. This story tells how much Mr. Bartlett thinks "The Sun" has been damaged up to date by the wide spread and powerful conspiracy to prevent its selling "its news." As compensation therefor he asks the Circuit Court to grant judgment against the conspirators for a little matter of

It is all very pathetic. It has been known for some time that "The Sun's" desertion of Tammany and enlistment in the service of Platt last year, followed as it was by the se cession from the Republican organization of thousands of Republicans who could not stom ach the arrogance of the Boss or the alternate bullying and patronizing manners of his new organ, had turned out to be a disastrons blunder. It was also known that the role of Ish maelite which "The Sun" was playing against every newspaper in this city and nearly all the respectable journals in the country had arrayed the press of the country almost solidly against it. In addition to this "its news" for which it sought a sale had become utterly untrustworthy and worthless. So the disclosure of financial distress by Mr. Bartlett is not surprise. That it should attempt to recoup it self from the treasuries of the newspapers throughout the country which will not buy "its news" is a trifle ludicrous. So, also, is its resort to the law against trusts, which it has always derided, as a means for getting even with the conspirators. We should be glad to think that the financial distress into which

lican and independent candidates, and injured But its record forbids it. We are compelled to admit its justice. And we see no reason why the decent newspapers of the country should relieve its distress to the tune of \$225,900, unless upon the plea of the restaurant-keeper, who, upon being asked why he charged 25 cents for a sandwich, replied: "Between you and me, stranger, I need the money."

DON QUIXOTE'S SUCCESSORS.

The Knight of the Rueful Countenance seems to have some successors in the offices of Spanish newspapers. On no other theory does it seem possible to explain some of the extraordinary comments on President McKinley's Message Quixotic patrlots sec foes in every windmill, and run a-tilt against them with their dripping pens. In what Cave of Montesinos they have been dreaming, or have been deluded by "fake" sensations, it might not be difficult to say, were that to the point. The practical effect of their antics is, however, of more concern. No harm can come to this country. That is sure. But the Spanish mind may be excited, the Spanish Government embarrassed, and the already arduous task of effecting a just and honorable settlement in Cuba made still more difficult. These things, if they come to pass, will be regretted, no less by the American people than by all other sincere friends of Spain. Attack is made chiefly upon the utterances of

the President concerning alleged fillbustering. which are denounced as cynical and of evil in tent. Why? Because the President boldly and straightforwardly denies the charges that have been so recklessly made of infractions of the neutrality laws. It was perfectly evident to every impartial observer, long ago, that no considerable amount of filibustering, if any, was going on. The Spanish Minister at Washington, one of the most watchful and diligent of public servants Spain ever had, has repeatedly admitted that there was no ground for current reports of filibustering. The detailed report of the Secretary of the Treasury, now published, must be finally convincing to all who read it. He shows that since the present war began only six American vessels, of insignificant size, have landed expeditions in Cuba; six, out of a total of 13,585 that might have been used for the purpose! Sixty expeditions are alleged to have been attempted. Of these the United States has frustrated thirty-three, and ten others have failed through other causes. Seventeen are said to have been successful, but in every case but two, which two are still pending, this Government has fully vindicated its good faith by punishing the principals or otherwise. This Government has constantly employed eight vessels in this police work, sending them more than 75,700 miles. If any other country has a better record than that, under similar circumstances, it would be interesting to know which it is

On the other hand, observe the record of Spain herself. While the United States has stopped thirty-three out of sixty expeditions, Spain has prevented only four of the remaining twentyseven from landing. The "Imparcial" says "the Spanish flag floats over Cuba." Why, then, does it not make its presence there effective? Spain is free to selze every unlawful expedition that enters Cuban waters, whether fillbusters or smugglers. She has only 2,200 miles of coast to patrol, while the United States has 5,470 miles. If Americans are smuggling in goods, Spain ought to strengthen her revenue police. If Americans are running the blockade, Spain should make her blockade more effective; for it is a well-established principle of international law that a mere paper blockade need not be respected

The fact is, the United States Government has done all it was required to do, under the letter and in the spirit of the law, to prevent fliegal expeditions to Cuba. If any number of such expeditions has been successful and the Spantsh cause has been injured thereby, Spain has only herself, or the wretched incompetence of her braggart-blunderer. Weyler, to blame for it. But there is little reason to believe that such expeditions have materially affected the course of the war. The logic which some Spanish editers seem to have adopted is this: Without great help from the United States the Cubans could not have held out against Weyler; but they did hold out against him; therefore they must have got great help from the United States. That would be conclusive, were the major premise proved, or susceptible of proof; but it is not. Senor Sagasta recognizes that fact, and so does Senor De Lôme, and it is not conceivable that they regard the bombastic Quixotry of those who should be their supporters with feelings other than of disapproval and

## REFORMING FRENCH PROCEDURE.

While the Dreyfus case is casting some un pleasant doubts upon the justice of French military trials it is gratifying to observe that the civil code of France has at last been freed from one of its most objectionable relics of mediaval oppression. Briefly stated, the system of indefinite imprisonment and secret examination of accused persons has been abolished. The initiative in this reform was taken by M. Constans who will be remembered as the "strong Minister" of a few administrations back. His proposal was promptly accepted by both chambers of Parliament, and became law a few weeks ago. It is not too much to say that a new era in French jurisprudence is thus begun. Hitherto an officer has been able to issue a warrant under which the accused person could be arrested at any time, the police being free to enter his house for the purpose at any hour, and not only to selze him, but also to take any books, papers or other objects which they might find by ransacking the premises. The prisoner could then be placed in close confinement in a common jail for days and weeks, while the Judge examined the things taken from his house at leisure. After the prisoner had thus been treated as a convict, he was brought before the Judge for secret examination, and the Judge. who had blassed his mind against him by ex amination and study of all obtainable testimony and was particularly well prepared to lead him into self-incriminating confessions, inflicted upon him a veritable inquisition, treating him as though his guilt were already confirmed. Of course, not all nor most Judges used their power for the oppression of prisoners. But it was possible for any to do so, and multitudes of innocent men had to undergo such humiliation and persecution. The present reform requires that the prisone

is not to be deprived of counsel while in prison, that he is to be examined within twenty-four hours after his arrest, that the examination is not to be secret, and that the prisoner is to have the benefit and services of counsel at it. That France has only just reached this stage of legal procedure, which Anglo-Saxon nations have so long enjoyed, seems really startling. Now that the reform has been achieved, further progress will surely be made, until the great principle is fully established that every man is to be con sidered innocent until he is proved guilty, or at least that the onus of proof shall rest with the prosecution and not with the defence. It is extraordinary that the country which has made the most rapid progress and most sudden and radical changes in many directions should have been so slow in effecting this most righteous reform. But, perhaps, now that a beginning has been made. France will take the lead in local as well as other forms of progress.

No higher testimony to the wisdom and cour age of the President's treatment of the Cuber question could be desired than is offered by Mr. Hannis Taylor, lately United States Minister to RAPID TRANSIT SITUATION. Spain, who says he thinks "Congress should firmly and scornfully reject such a policy of "Irresolution and non-action."

"The New-York Sun" has taken to lawsuits to make money. It says its business has been injured, and it sues the Associated Press for nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the The responsibility of the Associated Press for this is more than doubtful; but we have no doubt damages can be proved to that amount or more. We have no doubt, either, that "The Sun" desperately needs the money.

The German Emperor's expressed opinion of the Haytlans indicates that the German Minis-

ter to Hayti is in the line of promotion. If any of the miserable contestants in the six days' bicycle contest are, as is charged, victims of deliberate cruelty on the part of their trainers and backers, and in serious danger of ending their lives or ruining their health in a desperate endeavor to stay to the last, it is time for the public authorities to interfere. A reasonable test of endurance is well enough, and may have some relation to the progress of civilization; but neither murder nor suicide is favorably regarded by the law.

It did not need three weeks of uncleaned streets to make the people of Brooklyn willing to bid adjeu to Commissioner Willis.

The machine people who think Citizens Union votes came high ought to find out how much it cost to nominate General Tracy and get one hundred thousand votes for him. If it only cost a dollar a vote the machine might not be willing to follow the Citizens Union's example and publish its accounts.

The proposed introduction of electricity as the motive power on the old underground roads in London will be a serious blow to New-York opponents of rapid transit, who have derived great comfort from the proof they furnish that it is not pleasant to inhale coal smoke and gas. Inasmuch as the Rapid Transit act explicitly forbids the creation of similar conditions here, no sensible citizen has considered the argument from London as of the remotest consequence; but it is painful to think of what may happen to the other sort of citizens when they find their favorite prop knocked from under them.

#### PERSONAL.

Congressman "Jerry" Simpson, of Kansas, ad dressed the Henry George Single Tax Club of De-troit the other evening.

Miss Susan B. Anthony has returned home Rochester after an extensive lecture tour through the West.

The Municipal League of Philadelphia gave a reception in honor of William B. Hornblower and B. Reynolds, of the New-York Citizens Union, on Wednesday evening, and each of them made an address. The Lengue will give receptions on January 5 and 25 and February 9, and its guests will include James C. Carter, of this city, president of the National Municipal League, Dr. Albert Shaw, Editor of "The Review of Reviews," and Charles J. Bonaparte, of Baltimore.

President Andrews of Brown University delivered a lecture on Robert E. Lee at Lake Forest Art In-stitute, Chicago, the other evening.

"Henry George," says "The Westminster Gazette," "had a quaint humor of his own, and could tell a good story against himself. During his Australian tour one of his friends in Sidney suggested to the secretary of a local racing club that it would be a graceful thing to send Mr. George a compit-mentary ticket for the race meeting then at hand. The papers were at the time devoting many col-nums to reports of George's meetings and discus-sions on his dectrines, but the sportsman had evi-dently not read them. Who is Mr. George' he asked. I never heard of him before. 'Why, he's a man of worldwide celebrity.' Does he own any horse' queried the secretary, 'Yes; two very fast trotters, 'Progress' and 'Poverty,'' 'Oh, all right,' said the now satisfied secretary; here's a ticket for him.'' be a graceful thing to send Mr. George a compl

Colonel Alexander K. McClure, of Philadelphia lectured on Abraham Lincoln in Camden, N. J., the

George Vanderbilt won sixty-two prizes for hi poultry exhibit from his Biltmore farm, and every prize competed for except one at the State fair at Raleigh, N. C. He also won 100 for the best agrieigh, N. C.

San Francisco, Dec. 9.-Professor Perrine, one of the members of the Lick Observatory staff, has re-ceived a letter from the French Academy of Sci-mittee, consisting of Frederick D. Tappen, Joseph ceived a sunouncing that his work in astronomy has been considered of such value as to merit the become considered of such value as to merit the become considered of such value as to merit the become considered of such value as to merit the become considered of such value as to merit the become considered of such value (as now).

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A pastor in Indiana recently startled his con gregation by the following announcement: "Remember our quarterly meeting next Sunday. The Lord will be with us during the morning service, and the Presiding Elder in the evening."

I'm awful glad, mamma, that I've begun to g "Why, dear?"
"Because we have a holiday every Saturday."
(Fliegende Blätter.

"The Omaha Bee" tells of a clergyman who was atechizing a Sunday-school, and, after informing the children that the pastor of a church is it shepherd, while the members are the sheep, What does the shepherd do for sheep?" To the amusement of those present a small boy in the front row piped out,

Orasorical Influence -"There" exclaimed the ma Oratorical influence.—"There" exclaimed the man who firmly believes that he is eloquent. "I regard that as the effort of my life."
"It is rather long, isn't it?" remarked the young woman who had been typewriting it.
"But it's bound to produce an effect. Couldn't you notice that it exerts a potent influence, even when imperfectly dehvered."
"Well," she answered, "I hadn't thought of the connection before; but my foot's asleep."—(Wash-

Philip Hill, a condemned murderer in jail a

Pittsburg, Penn., was reading the Bible the other day, when the Sheriff told him that his execution was to be postponed. He at once threw the Bible down and lit a cigarette. She-You say you haven't felt well all the after

noon, dear?

He—I've been miserable. I are some pigeon for lunch and it disagreed with me.

She—Do you know, love, something told me long before you came home that something was wrong

New South Wales is experimenting successfully with irrigation, having a territory estimated at 62,000 square miles requiring that sort of treatment. The water is obtained from artesian wells, and

he official report upon the work declares that it is entirely successful, and that the whole tract ean thus be made fertile. Grandmother Goodley (glancing around on a silm attendance at prayer-meeting)—Well, you know, the happlest times are sometimes had when two or three are met together.

Miss Goodley—Er—usually two, I think.—(Chicago Inter Ocean.

"Do you know your orders, sentinel?" was asked a not overbright Irish soldier on guard duty

recently at Fort Logan, Col.
"Yis, sor," was the reply. "Know the points of the compass?" continued the

"Yis sor." "If you face the rising sun, your left hand would be on the north of you and your right hand to the south of you. What would be behind you?"
"Me knapsack, sor," sententiously answered

"Silas, we can't take your umbrella to Europe with us," said old Mrs. Stiggins. "The advertisement says that no cotton will be carried on the passenger steamers."
"Then we'll stay at home," said Silas. "I sin't a-goin' across anything so wet as the Atlantic Ocean without me umbrella."—(Harper's Bazar.

The mixing of white Indian meal with flour ar selling the mixture as pure wheat flour have becom so general in the South that the Georgia Legislat ure has passed a bill requiring the words our" to be branded on each package containing blending of wheat and the cheaper corn flour The proportion of flour and Indian meal must also be indicated.

It doesn't take much to start the rabbit industry a few rabbits and a turnly patch or some other patture—but it takes a mighty hustling to check after it gets a good start. We kill about fourtee million of them in North Carolina every winter but there are more here now than there were whe Mr. Raleigh brought his immigrants over.—(Wi mington (N. C.) Star.

THE DECISION OF THE APPELLATE DI-VISION EXPECTED TO-DAY.

REPORTS THAT RICHARD CROKER WILL OPPOSE THE IMMEDIATE CARRYING OUT OF THE

PLANS IF THE COURT'S RUL-

ING IS FAVORABLE. The decision of the Appellate Division of the preme Court with reference to the report of the Rapid Transit Commission is expected to be handed Rumor has been busy recently with the rapid transit plans. It was reported widely yes erday in Wall Street, and the rumor found general

credence, that Richard Croker had decided to oppose the plans of the Rapid Transit Commission in very possible way, and that if the decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court sho favorable to the Commission's plans Mr. Croker would resort to every legal device to delay work, at least during the present month and until after the Tammany government went into power. Whether this is true or not, and whatever may b Mr. Croker's intentions with regard to the Rapid Transit Commission, it is a well-known fact that Mr. Croker has been a large speculator in Wall Street at various times. It is also an equally wellknown fact that a number of the pillars of Tammany Hall have been badly burned in times past when Manhattan Elevated Rallway shares have fallen off suddenly and heavily. It is not at all impossible that they intend to lay immediate plans

to recoup those old and bitter losses. Lewis L. Delafield, secretary of the Rapid Transit Commission, had not heard of the plans attributed to Mr. Croker by rumor when a Tribune reporter saw him yesterday at his office, and he had nothing to say upon the subject. As to the plans of the Rapid Transit Commission in case the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court should decide favorably on the Commission's report, Mr. Delafield had

this to say:

"Under the terms of the law the Rapid Transit Commissioners will be at liberty, if the Appellat Division of the Supreme Court shall affirm the report of its Commissioners that the Rapid Transit Railroad ought to be constructed, to proceed at once to adopt the detailed plans and specifications for the construction of the railroad, to approve the form of contract for the construction and operation of the railroad and to advertise for bids for the contract. Mr. Parsons has for months been engaged in the arduous task of preparing the dealied plans and specifications. This work is now practically completed, and is being examined by Messrs. George S. Morison and Howard A. Carson, two of the most eminent engineers in the country, with a view to obtaining the benefit of any suggestions they may wish to make. The latter, who is chief engineer of the Boston Transit Commission, has already reported on Mr. Parsons's plans, stating in substance that he entirely approves them as prepared by Mr. Parsons. Mr. Morison is now. I understand, daily engaged in the examination of the plans, but he has not as yet reported to the Board. The contract for the construction and operation of the railroad, prepared by a committee consisting of Alexander E. Orr. Charles Stewart Smith and George L. Rives, assisted by Messrs. Shepard and Boardman, the counsel of the Board is now substantially completed. If, therefore, the decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court shall be favorable, the Board is in a position to proceed with little delay to the actual letting of the contract. Assuming that the Board is not delayed by further litigation. I can see no reacted awarded in the early part of January. "I think the public has little conception of the amount of work which has been done by the special committee of the Board appointed to draft the contract and by the chief engineer and counsel, and if a solution of the transit question in this city is reached in the near future it will be due to the hard work of the gentlemen just referred to." Division of the Supreme Court shall affirm the report of its Commissioners that the Rapid Transit

FITZSIMONS NOW CHIEF JUDGE.

ELECTED BY HIS FELLOW-JUDGES TO SUCCEED MAYOR-ELECT VAN WYCK.

At a meeting of the Judges of the City Cour esterday morning, Judge James Fitzsimons was ected Chief Judge of the court, in place of Rob ert A. Van Wyck, the Mayor-elect, who resigned last week. The new Chief Judge is about forty-five years old. He is well liked by his associates on the bench and by the members of the bar.

SIX NEW UNION LEAGUERS.

ELECTED AT THE CLUB'S MEETING-A NOMINAT-ING COMMITTEE CHOSEN.

was held last night. William Brookfield presided, nd there was a large attendance of members. The following candidates for admission, recon mended at the meeting of the Committee on Admissions held on November 18, were elected nembership in the club: John J. Knox, William A. Bartlett, Roscoe C. E. Brown and Gilbert M. Smith of this city; Robert D. Ballentine, of Newark, and E. Gay, Augustus D. Juilliard, Frederick T. Brown, t. Pomerov was elected, whose duty it is to non inate candidates for the various club offices, to be

filled at the annual election, which is to be held on Thursday, January 13, 1888. Walter C. Gilson, secretary of the club, when on Thursday, January 13, 1898.

Watter C Gilson, secretary of the club, when asked after the meeting who was likely to be nominated for president to succeed General Horace Porter, answered that he could not say, and that he didn't believe the members of the Nominating Committee themselves had yet any definite idea as

he didn't believe themselves had yet any definite idea as to their choice. General Porter, it will be remembered, tendered his resignation as president of the club upon his appointment as Ambassador to France, but the club refused to accept the resignation.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

The new play written by George Hibbard for the Lyceum Theatre is entitled "Marlborough," and its

The part of George Villars, secret agent of the United States, in "A Ward of France," which was played in Boston by Charles Kent, will be played in New-York by George Osbourne.

Charles Frohman has secured from Anthon Hope the English rights of his new play, "The Ad ventures of Lady Ursula," which Mr. Sothern produced in Philadelphia on Monday night. It is Mr. Probman's intention to have a production of the play at the Duke of York's Theatre, London.

Various rumors have been in circulation in regard to the probable or possible dissolution of the so-called theatrical trust, composed of Charles Froh an, "Al" Hayman, Klaw & Erlanger and Nixon & Zimmerman. It has been reported that the syndicate was "not on good terms with itself," or that there was a strained feeling between Messrs Hayman and Frohman; that an announce ment of the dissolution of the partnership of the six members of the syndicate was imminent, and that many out-of-town managers would not renev that many out-of-town managers would not renew their contracts with the syndicate, being dissatisded with the results of its labors. All these stories have been denied, but there is every appearance that the movement against the syndicate is growing. Mme. Modjeska and her husband, Count Rozenta, have allowed themselves to be placed on record as independent of the combination, and Joseph Jefferson has expressed himself as against it in more decided terms, declaring that he considers it inimical to the theatrical profession. Richard Mansfield expressed bis opposition long ago, and Francis Wilson and Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske are violently opposed to it. Miss Fanny Dovenport siso belongs to the list. Open infriendliness to the syndicate is growing more generally apparent among theatrical people.

An attractive entertainment was given at the Herald Square Theatre yesterday afternoon for the benefit of the widow and the mother of William Hoey. The receipts had not been accurately ascertained last night, but it was thought that they would reach something over \$4,000.

John Wild, Mrs. Apple Yeamans and "Dan" Coll yer, all old members of Edward Harrigan's company, have formed a combination to play a sketch on the vaudeville stage.

GENERAL HARRISON'S VISIT. Ex-President Harrison, who came here to atten

to some law business, will return to Indianapolis to-day. General Harrison was willing yesterday to talk about hunting and the joys of the Adirondacks, but he would not discuss politics or affairs of State He said that he had not kept himself sufficiently in ch with current affairs to discuss consistently and adequately, in an offhand manner, plans for currency reform presented to Congress. He said of the Dingley bill that he thought it had not se-cured a fair chance as yet, and expressed faith in its ultimate success. He thought business was im-proving throughout the country. The General seemed to be in excellent health. He received a few callers.

A NOVEL CARD OF INVITATION

San Francisco, Dec. 9 .- A slab of quarts, with veins of gold prominently showing, will convey California's invitation to President McKinley to attend the golden jubilee of the discovery of gold chairman Parsons of the Executive Commits that promised to secure a suitable piece of precious rock, and will have engraved on its the message which will bid the President to co to California to join in the miners' jubilation.

### MUSIC.

At its second concert, given last evening in the

Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Seldi Society

THE SEIDL SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

offered a programme of more than ample proportions, signalized especially by the inclusion of a composition by a Brooklyn musician. It was th outcome of an eminently laudable spirit on the part of the Seldl Society thus to offer the encouragement of its resources to an American componer but such liberality implies also a responsibility toward the public that must not be lost sight of It did not appear last evening that such a respon-sibility had had its due influence in the selection of the work thus to be honored. This is entitled "His-watha's Wooing and Wedding," and is by Mr. August Walther. The programme did not directly state what form the composer regarded it as representing, but a line in the analytical note suggested that it was a "symphonic poem." It is not, pernomenclature, but a symphonic poem in five dis-connected movements seems to break with the fundamental idea that has given shape to the compositions hitherto accepted as models of symphonic poems. If this were his worst or only delinquency Mr. Walther could easily be forgiven for his "Hiawatha," but, unfortunately, it is his least. A more important one is the utter feebleness of his ideas and his helplessness in elaborating them. Mr. Walther has not served himself with any of the native Indian themes or rhythms that might have served to give plausibility or characteristic color to his work; it is said that his music was composed be-fore Dr. Dvorak and his follower, Professor Mac-Dowell, had demonstrated the value of the native American element of folksong for artistic compo It may seriously be doubted, whether the skill displayed in this suite-which seems to be confined to presenting the component themes in a series of unending sequences such as the Germans style "Rosalien"—could have made even there interesting material worthy of the serious consideration of intelligent hearers. The audience showed a most friendly spirit toward the composer last evening, and summoned him to the front of his box after each successive movement to bow his acknowledgments. Mr. Seidl gave a sincere and intelligent performance of Mr. work, that certainly presented it in the best light.

Mue. Julie Rivé-King was the solo performer. She played Rubinstein's D minor planoforte concerto in a manner that sacrificed all its beautyeven that in the slow movement-to a glassy brilliancy. She was recalled and played an arrangement or amplification of a Strauss waitz in & singularly unintelligent manner, though with a remarkable accuracy of technique. The orchestra gave admirable performances of familiar pieces-"Tannhäuser" overture, the dream music from "Hänsel und Gretel," the largo from Dvorak's 'New World" symphony-perhaps as a gentle hint to ambitious workers in American subjects as to how a genius does it-and the transcription of Wagner's song, "Dreams."

#### H. O. HAVEMEYER GREATLY IMPROVED.

ABLE TO TAKE A DRIVE YESTERDAY AT HIS COUNTRY HOME-ALARMING REPORTS AS TO HIS CONDITION ENTIRELY UNFOUNDED.

Alarming reports concerning the condition of Henry O. Havemeyer, president of the American Sugar Refining Company (Sugar Trust), were in circulation yesterday. It was said that Mr. Havemeyer was in a critical condition; that, although he had recovered from the immediate effects of an operation for appendicitis performed several weeks ago, the wounds from the surgeon's knife had not caled, and that his death was imminent.

A reporter of The Tribune went to Palmer Hill, the Havemeyer country home, near Stamford, Conn., last night, where the patient has been staying since he has been ill, and there learned that the reports were unfounded. Mr. Havemeyer's representative, who was seen, said that the pa representative, who was seen, said that the patient had improved greatly, and is now beyond immediate danger. He was able to leave his room and go downstairs on Wednesday for the first time in weeks, and yesterday Mr. Havemeyer took advantage of the bright, clear weather about noon and went for a drive of several miles near the Sound. The surgeons who performed the operation have been dismissed, and only the attending physician and nurses are in charge. The family will return to this city, it was said, in a few days.

SYSTEMATIC CHARITY DISCUSSED.

ADDRESSES BEFORE THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CLUE-DR. J. G. BROOKS, MISS JANE ADAMS AND R. T. PAINE SPEAK.

A meeting of the Nineteenth Century Club was seld at Sherry's last evening. The ballroom was well filled, and an interesting discussion on "Why A. Taylor, president of the club, presided. first speaker was Dr. John Graham Brooks, Cambridge. Dr. Brooks's speech was a plea for organized charity. He spoke of the growing charity was that it was not democratic enough. In spite of that, organized charity had everywhere been grossly misunderstood. The criticism against

been grossly misunderstood. The criticism against it was the result, in almost every case, of imperfect administration.

Miss Jane Adams, principal of the Hull House, Chicago, in the course of an address gave reasons why systematic charity was disliked by the recipients of it. She said that much of the misunderstanding was owing to the "bourgeoise nature of the charity visitors," who had been brought up amid commercial surroundings, or, at any rate, had inherited commercial ideas, and were unable to understand that what was good for themselves was not always of benefit to the working classes.

Robert Treat Paine, of Boston, also spoke.

GERMANY'S HAND IN VENEZUELA.

REPLIN FINANCIERS SEIZING CONTROL OF THE REPUBLICS TREASURY.

Just at the moment when Germany is imposing her will upon Hayti by a display of naval force, he financiers are trying to put their hands upon the financial administration of Venezuela. A merciless war against Venezuelan stocks and securities has been opened recently in Germany, where, says the Venezuela. There is an evident exaggeration in these insinuations. Of course, the South American republic is bearing a heavy load of financial obligations as a consequence of arrangements too incon miderately made. The country, however, has succeeded in consolidating a portion of its external debt-that portion which was contracted with the assistance of a London syndicate. But there is a powerful German syndicate, with the Disconto Ge sellschaft, a Berlin financial institution, at its head. cent of 50,000,000 bollvars (about \$10,000,000). That loan is secured by custom-house receipts. Forty per cent of those receipts are to be set aside for the payment

is secured by custom-house receipts. Forty per cent of those receipts are to be set aside for the payment of the coupons of that debt. Unfortunately, commercial transactions have decreased lately, and duties on imports and exports have also decreased correspondingly. But this is not justification for proclaiming bankruptcy. Not a single payment of the coupons is in danger.

The German syndicate knows this very well, but in opening a campaign against its debtors it looks forward to some more important and valuable result. That syndicate has already succeeded in getting hold of one of the sources of the revenues of the Venezuelan Treasury, and it is anxious to secure others. Through the allegation that the custom-house receipts are no longer able to secure the service of the coupons it prepares the way toward mortgaging other kinds of taxation and imports. This is the policy which aims to take hold, little by little, of the administration of a country and to reduce an American republic to the condition in which Egypt finds herself in regard to England. Financial control or political protectorate, it is about the same toing. But it is to be hoped that the Venezuelan Republic will be enlightened by the lessons of the past and will know how to guard itself against such a misfortune, masmuch as it has plenty of resources. The Venezuelan Government will probably be able, through an honest and able administration, to decrease the country's obligations to foreign financiers, and thus prevent Germany from being the real ruler of the republic, as Great Britain is the actual ruler of Egypt.

MRS. OELRICHS'S CONDITION UNCHANGED. A rumor spread yesterday that Mrs. Hermana Oelrichs, who is under treatment for an her eye, caused by a rusty tack which struck her as she was watching some work done by a decorator in her room, was much worse, and that it was possible she might lose her sight. It was said at the Oelrichs house, No. 1 East Fifty-seventh-st., last night, however, that Mrs. Oelrichs's condition had been unchanged since Wednesday.

## GOVERNOR SADLER HORRIFIED.

Carson City, Nev., Dec. 1.-Governor Badler et Nevada denounces the work of the mob on Tuesday morning in Genoa in lynching Adam Uber as a case of fiendish barbarism. He says that on proper application from the authorities of Douglas County application from the authorities of Douglas County
he will offer a reward for the apprehension of the
leaders and accessories to the crime. Uber's body
when in the morgue gave evidence of having been
beaten, shot and bruised beyond recognition. The
eyes had been punctured out and one arm broken.
The authorities say they have several cleve to the
identity of the perpetrators of the lynching.